

*Biología Terrestre, Centro de Investigación Biología del Noroeste, La Paz, B.C.S., 23000, México*

The peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) has been poorly studied in México, and for this reason there is no information on its current conservation status. Historically the largest numbers of peregrines were located in the Gulf of California and the Baja California peninsula; however, recent reports show that the population on the west coast of the peninsula has declined or disappeared. In 1993, we found three active nests in Scammon's Lagoon, a location without historical nesting records. Nesting occurred between March and June, and at least eight fledglings were reared. Based on our data and additional reports of eyries in the region, we believe that the middle portion of the west coast of the Baja peninsula is an important breeding area with a higher number of peregrines than that reported for the whole Baja Pacific coast during the years 1976–77. Consequently, we believe that special efforts need to be done by governmental agencies to study and protect this area.

#### FALCONIFORMES FROM TUXTEPEC, OAXACA, MEXICO

CORTÉS, A.R. *Departamento de Zoología, Instituto de Biología UNAM Apdo. Postal 70-153, CP 04510, Coy., México D.F. México*

Considering avian diversity in México, Oaxaca is one of the richest states in this country with both resident and migratory species. In the area of Tuxtepec, Oax. where a huge dam was recently built (about 3 yr ago), a study has been carried out by people from the Faculty of Science of the National University of México (UNAM), who in 1989–90 reported the presence of 15 different raptor species in the area. The observations done for this study, in November 1991 and June 1992, report the presence of eight species previously unrecorded for this area. Considering the species previously reported and the ones found in this study, the total (23 species) represents 43% of the Falconiformes known for México, and approximately 8% of the species of diurnal birds of prey known for the world. The results in this study show that this area can be of great importance for raptor biologists because of the number of species, both resident and migratory, that occur in the locality. Finally, it is important to mention that a lot of research on the different species is still needed in order to understand their biology, and ensure their permanence in the natural environment.

#### HOW ACCURATE ARE AERIAL SURVEYS FOR DETERMINING PRODUCTIVITY OF OSPREYS?

EWINS, P.J. *Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada, Canada Centre for Inland Waters, P.O. Box 5050, Burlington, Ontario, L7R 4A6, Canada.* M.J.R. MILLER. *3639 Bluestream Crescent, Mississauga, Ontario, L4Y 3S5, Canada*

In many parts of North America, reproductive performance of ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*) is assessed by a mid-May aerial survey of nest occupancy, followed by a mid-July aerial count of medium-sized chicks. This technique is particularly cost effective where ospreys breed at low density, but survey error margins have not been investigated previously. In 1992 and 1993 we compared independent fixed-wing and rotor-winged counts of chicks in two study areas along Canadian shores of Lake Huron, each supporting about 40 occupied nests. We compared chick counts between two reasonably experienced surveyors, and determined actual nest contents in mid- and late-July for some nests. Fixed-wing surveys underestimated total chick numbers by up to 33%. On rotor-winged surveys counts by both observers were closer to actual nest contents, ranging from a 15% underestimate to a 6% overestimate. Marked variation between observers was found on one of six surveys—a fixed-wing flight. Distinguishing recently dead chicks from live chicks (which always lie flat) was difficult from either type of aircraft. Nestling mortality after mid-July surveys was 31% in both years on Georgian Bay, Lake Huron. These results indicate that precise interpretation of osprey productivity data should not be made without considering survey technique, observer error, and post-survey nestling mortality.

#### DISTRIBUTION OF BIRDS OF PREY IN MEXICO

MACOUZET FUENTES, T., N. CHAVEZ AND A. REUTER. *Departamento de Zoología, Instituto de Biología, UNAM, México, D.F. A.P. 70153, 04510, Del. Coyoacán*

In México, the knowledge of the distribution of birds of prey is poor and therefore it is difficult to know the different species that can be found in each region of the country. Our objective was to put data together on the different localities in which these birds have been seen or captured. This information was obtained from ornithological collections and from different museums both Mexican and foreign and also from abstracts and publications done on these birds in México. Forty catalogs have been checked on different collections and museums from which 3308 registers were obtained for the 57 species of diurnal birds of prey in México and 1678 for the 28 species of nocturnal birds of prey. To the information mentioned above, we added the data obtained in 190 publications made on diurnal birds of prey and 75 on nocturnal birds of prey. We also collected information on the common names in Spanish and English for these birds, their habits, description meristics, endangered species status, and migratory species. This research will be a useful guide to anyone with interest in studying these groups. It will also help to identify which species in México have been studied better, which are totally unknown, which have a priority to keep a watch on, and to help identify different zones in the country in which species are more abundant and